

**CALIFORNIA RESEARCH BUREAU
CALIFORNIA STATE LIBRARY
Studies in the News**

California -- One Hundred Years Ago

July 1908. "Yuba River Very Low. Water Supply Failing. The water supply of many of the cities and districts of the bay counties is diminishing on account of the fact that the middle Yuba River is running low. The consumers in the districts affected have been asked to curtail their use of the water as much as possible and it is said that the Bay Counties Power Company which furnishes electric lights to all the cities of the valley as far as San Francisco is facing an alarming situation on account of the rapidly disappearing water supply at the Colgate power plant in this county. The water supply, it is said, has hardly ever been so low, due to the lack of rainfall last winter and the present long continued dry spell." *Los Angeles Times* (July 31, 1908) pg. 13.

July 1908. "New Buzz Pumps. Blowing Water Out of Deep City Wells. Three great streams of water from as many wells began flowing into the mains of the city yesterday, when the new compressed air pumping plant of the city started into action at Slauson avenue and Figueroa street. Soon after the great pumps started the water spouted out above the casing, and by the time they were in full action they were pumping at the rate of 4,000,000 gallons a day. Preparations have been making for some time to start this latest of the pumping plants, installed by the water department under the supervision of Superintendent William Mulholland and Chief Engineer Fred J. Fischer." *Los Angeles Times* (July 31, 1908) pg 111.

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Introduction to Studies in the News

Studies in the News is a current compilation of items significant to the Legislature and Governor's Office. It is created weekly by the State Library's [California Research Bureau](#) to supplement the public policy debate in California. To help

share the latest information with state policymakers, these reading lists are now being made accessible through the State Library's website. This week's list of current articles in various public policy areas is presented below. Prior lists can be viewed from the California State Library's Web site at www.library.ca.gov/sitn

- When available, the URL for the full text of each item is provided.
- California State Employees may contact the State Information & Reference Center (916-654-0261; csinfo@library.ca.gov) with the SITN issue number and the item number [S#].
- All other interested individuals should contact their local library - the items may be available there, or may be borrowed by your local library on your behalf.

The following studies are currently on hand:

CRIMINAL JUSTICE & LAW ENFORCEMENT

CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

People v. Blaine Allen Evans. California Supreme Court. S141357. July 24, 2008. 15 p.

Full text at: <http://www.courtinfo.ca.gov/opinions/documents/S141357.PDF>

["A criminal defendant's right to address the judge before sentencing and plead for mercy without being cross-examined, a right traced back to 17th century England, doesn't exist in California. The justices ruled unanimously that a defendant who is about to be sentenced must be treated like any other witness -- testifying under oath and subject to cross-examination by the prosecutor -- when asking for leniency.... The court said California law has been worded narrowly to authorize only a defendant's statement about why the judge should not pronounce judgment -- that is, formally declare the defendant's guilt. The law doesn't guarantee the right to make a similar unsworn statement seeking leniency. A trial judge could still decide to allow such a statement, but only if the prosecutor agreed." San Francisco Chronicle (July 25, 2008) 1.]
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JUVENILE JUSTICE

"Examining the Impact of Gender, Race/Ethnicity, and Family Factors on Mental Health Issues in a Sample of Court-Involved Youth." By Stephen M. Gavazzi, and others. IN: Journal of Marital & Family Therapy, vol. 34, no. 3 (July 2008) pp. 353-368.

Full text at: <http://www3.interscience.wiley.com/journal/120840818/abstract>

["One of the most widely accepted beliefs about the differences between troubled boys and girls may need to be revised. Experts have long believed that girls tend to internalize their problems, becoming depressed or anxious, while boys externalize, turning to violence against people or property. But a new study found that this oft-repeated idea didn't hold true for African-American youth who were in the juvenile justice system. For them, whether they internalized or externalized depended not on gender, but on what was happening within their families..... In these families, boys and girls were more likely to show outward aggression if they lived in families with higher levels of dysfunction. Such a relationship was not found in white families." Science Daily (July 21, 2008) 1.]
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CULTURE AND SOCIETY

MEDIA

The Changing Newsroom: What is Being Gained and What is Being Lost in America's Daily Newspapers? By Tyler Marshall and the Pew Research Center's Project for Excellence in Journalism. (The Project, Washington, DC) July 2008. 57 p.

Full text at: <http://journalism.org/files/PEJ-The%20Changing%20Newspaper%20Newsroom%20FINAL%20DRAFT-NOEMBARGO-PDF.pdf>

["Sixty-four percent of the newspapers reported cutting the space given to foreign news over three years, making that the area that has suffered at the most papers as the business contracts. Almost half the papers said they had cut the human resources devoted to covering news from abroad, a striking figure given that most newspapers are small and historically have not had any reporters or editors working full time on foreign news.... The only area cut nearly as often as foreign news was national news, which declined at 57 percent of the papers. Business coverage ranked next, reduced by one-third of the papers... Half of all papers said they had increased the amount of state and local news they published, especially 'hyper-local' community news." New York Times (July 21, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-40-2703]

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ECONOMY

CALIFORNIA

Opportunities and Challenges for the California Economy: California Economic Growth, Chapter 2. By Stephen Levy, Center for Continuing Study of the California Economy. (The Center, Palo Alto, California) 2008. 41 p.

Full text at: http://www.ccsce.com/pdf/CEG_2008_Ch2.pdf

["Most of the decisions underlying California's economic growth prospects will be private sector decisions. Yet these private decisions are made in a context of public policies.... Will entrepreneurs and families continue to be attracted to California's economic opportunities? Will residents born in California want to and be able to live here, prosper and enjoy a high quality of life? Will our schools be good enough to educate and train California residents to replace retiring baby boomers and fill newly created jobs? Will California's infrastructure measure up to that in other locations? Will the lack of housing or housing affordability be a barrier to creating a climate for innovation and private investment? Can the state budget be balanced while meeting California's public investment priorities?"]

[Request #S08-40-2674]

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CONSUMER PROTECTION

Financial Literacy: An Essential Tool for Informed Consumer Choice? By Annamaria Lusardi, Harvard Business School. (National Bureau of Economic Research, Cambridge, Massachusetts) June 2008. 30 p.

Full text at: <http://papers.nber.org/papers/w14084>

["Individuals...are not well-equipped to make sound saving decisions. This paper demonstrates widespread financial illiteracy among the U.S. population.... Those with low education, women, African-Americans, and Hispanics display particularly low levels of literacy. Financial literacy impacts financial decision-making. Failure to plan for retirement, lack of participation in the stock market, and poor borrowing behavior can all be linked to ignorance of basic financial concepts. While financial education programs can result in improved saving behavior and financial decision-making, much can be done to improve these programs' effectiveness."]

[Request #S08-40-2655]

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COST OF LIVING

The Impact of the Housing Crash on Family Wealth. By Dean Baker and David Rosnick, Center for Economic and Policy Research. (The Center, Washington, DC) July 2008. 15 p.

Full text at: http://www.cepr.net/documents/publications/wealth_2008_07.pdf

["A as a result of the collapse of the housing bubble, families in all age cohorts will see a substantial reduction in their wealth compared to the levels for the same age cohort in 2001 or 2004.... In percentage terms, the sharpest falloffs are projected to occur for the youngest families. ... The projections show that the crash of the housing bubble is likely to eliminate most, if not all, of the gains that families had made in accumulating wealth over the last two decades.... Homes are the major financial asset held by the bulk of the population.... As these projections should demonstrate, homeownership is not everywhere and always an effective way to accumulate wealth."]

[Request #S08-40-2689]

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EDUCATION

GRADUATION RATES

Can Middle School Reform Increase High School Graduation Rates? By Jacquelynne S. Eccles, University of Michigan. (California Dropout Research Project., Santa Barbara, California) June 2008. 65 p.

Full text at: http://lmri.ucsb.edu/dropouts/pubs_reports.htm

["This report reviews three major topics concerning students as they move into middle and junior high schools. The first section describes how many students disengage from the academic agenda of American schools because they either do not feel that they can succeed in these institutions or.... place little value or even negative value on being at school. The second section finds developmental declines in school engagement often observed during early adolescence are primarily a consequence of the nature of the middle years school transitions. The last section suggests how to design middle school contexts that protect against this type of negative crystallization."]

[Request #S08-40-2704]

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Middle School Predictors of High School Achievement in Three California School Districts. By Michal Kurlaender, University of California, Davis, and others. (California Research Dropout Project, Santa Barbara, California) June 2008. 50 p.

Full text at: http://lmri.ucsb.edu/dropouts/pubs_reports.htm

["Following a group of students from three California school districts, Long Beach Unified, Fresno Unified and San Francisco Unified.... this study examined the significance of several middle school indicators (including student and demographic backgrounds) on three areas of high school achievement. These areas include... passing the California High School Exit Exam...academic performance in the 11th grade, and graduating in their districts 'on time'. In each of the three districts studied, only about a third of students who failed 2 or more classes in the 7th grade graduated high school."]

[Request #S08-40-2670]

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What Factors Predict High School Graduation in the Los Angeles Unified School District? By David Silver, University of California, Los Angeles, and others (California Dropout Research Project, Santa Barbara, California) June 2008. 32 p.

Full text at: http://lmri.ucsb.edu/dropouts/pubs_reports.htm

["A student's chances of graduating on time from an Los Angeles Unified School District high school were less than 50/50. The report tracked some 48,000 students from 163 LAUSD schools going back from middle school to their high school expected graduation in 2005. The report examines 3 key questions.... What fraction of first time LAUSD high school freshman graduate 'on time'? ... What school traits are associated with academic success?... What specific academic experiences/courses lead to successful high school completion?"]

[Request #S08-40-2666]

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MATHEMATICS & SCIENCE TEACHING

Gender Similarities Characterize Math Performance. By Janet S. Hyde and others. IN: Science, vol. 321, no. 5888 (July 25, 2008) pp. 494-495.

Full text at: <http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/content/summary/321/5888/494>

[“An analysis of standardized test scores from more than 7.2 million students in grades 2 through 11 found no difference in math scores for girls and boys, contradicting the pervasive belief that most women aren't hard-wired for careers in science and technology... Even on test questions that were designed to measure complex reasoning skills, the gender differences were minuscule.. Hyde said that pressure to get into selective colleges has prompted girls to take more advanced math classes, including calculus, and she said that may explain the improvement in test scores.” Los Angeles Times (July 25, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-40-2739]

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EMPLOYMENT

OLDER WORKERS

Will Employers Want Aging Boomers? By Gordon B.T. Mermin and others, the Urban Institute. (The Institute, Washington, DC) July 2008. 57 p.

Full text at: http://www.urban.org/UploadedPDF/411705_aging_boomers.pdf

["Boomers will probably want to work longer than earlier cohorts, but their continued work requires that employers hire and retain them. Employers value older workers for their maturity, experience and work ethic, but worry about out of date skills and high costs. Slower overall labor supply growth will increase demand for older workers and occupations with higher shares of older workers will increase modestly as a share of all jobs. Future jobs will require less physical demands and more cognitive and interpersonal skills, trends that favor educated older workers, but job opportunities for less educated older workers may remain limited."]

[Request #S08-40-2722]

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ENERGY

HYDROGEN

Transitions to Alternative Transportation Technologies: A Focus on Hydrogen. By the Committee on Assessment of Resource Needs for Fuel Cell and Hydrogen Technologies, National Research Council. (National Academies Press, Washington, DC) July 2008.

["Hydrogen fuel-cell vehicles are still 15 years away from becoming a viable business for automakers even if they overcome remaining technical hurdles and the US government provides massive subsidies. Under a best-case scenario, automakers will only be able to sell about 2 million electric vehicles powered by fuel cells by 2020.... The study, which was sponsored by the US Department of Energy, did not weigh the potential for plug-in electric vehicles to cut oil consumption and

greenhouse gas emissions. But it concluded that the best way to reduce both over the next 20 years would be a range of alternatives, including hybrids and improvements in the efficiency of gas-powered combustion engines." Reuters (July 18, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-40-2698]

Book. 234 p.

http://www.nap.edu/catalog.php?record_id=12222

Summary. 21 p.

http://www.nap.edu/nap-cgi/report.cgi?record_id=12222&type=pdfxsum

Press release. 2 p.

<http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=12222>

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RENEWABLE ENERGY

Biofuels Incentives: A Summary of Federal Programs. By Brent D. Yacobucci, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress. (The Service, Washington, DC) March 2008. 14 p.

Full text at: <http://ncseonline.org/NLE/CRSreports/08Apr/RL33572.pdf>

["Ethanol and biodiesel, the two most widely used biofuels, receive significant government support under the law in the form of mandated fuel use, tax incentives, loan and grant programs, and certain regulatory requirements. The 18 programs and provisions listed in this report have been established over the past 27 years, and are administered by five separate agencies and departments.... These programs target a variety of beneficiaries, including farmers and rural small businesses, biofuel producers, petroleum suppliers, and fuel marketers. Arguably, the most significant federal programs for biofuels have been tax credits for the production or sale of ethanol and biodiesel."]

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ENVIRONMENT & NATURAL RESOURCES

BAY DELTA

Comparing Futures for the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. By Jay Lund, University of California, Davis, and others. (Public Policy Institute of California, San Francisco, California) July 2008. 184 p.

Full text at: <http://www.ppic.org/main/publication.asp?i=810>

[“A study concludes that the state has two viable choices to consider. One would be to stop exporting water through the Delta. The other would be to build a canal around the Delta so that water could still be shipped south without further endangering the region's environment. Ending water exports from north to south would be best for the fish. But that would leave much of California with a huge hole in its water supply. The cost of replacing that supply for urban areas and the direct economic blow from the loss of farming that would inevitably result would range from about \$1.5 billion to \$2.5 billion a year. Building a canal to shuttle water from the lower Sacramento River around the Delta and then to the south would be cheaper, less disruptive to the water supply and might ultimately be better for the Delta itself.” Sacramento Bee (July 21, 2008) E1.]

[Request #S08-40-2687]

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CLIMATE CHANGE

Regulating Greenhouse Gas Emissions under the Clean Air Act. By the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (The Agency, Washington, DC) July 2008

["The EPA published an examination of the issues surrounding greenhouse gases but refused to adopt its staff's finding that such gases could cause disastrous flooding and drought and affect food and water supplies.... In 2007 the Supreme Court ruled that carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases were air pollutants subject to federal regulation under the Clean Air Act. If the EPA found they were a threat to the public, the agency was required to produce regulations to reduce the risk. By not taking a stand on the health impact of the pollutants and seeking new public comment instead, the administration extended the period before the government can act beyond Jan. 20, 2009.... EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson said the Clean Air Act was 'the wrong tool for addressing greenhouse gases.'" Los Angeles Times (July 12, 2008) A1.]

[Request #S08-40-2668]

EPA text. 589 p.

<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/downloads/ANPRPreamble.pdf>

Fact Sheet. 3 p.

<http://www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/downloads/ANPRFactSheet.pdf>

ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATION

Voluntary Greenhouse Gas Reduction Programs Have Limited Potential. By Jill Ferguson and others, Office of the Inspector General, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. (The Office, Washington, DC) July 23, 2008. 40 p.

Full text at: <http://www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2008/20080723-08-P-0206.pdf>

[“Voluntary pollution-reduction programs touted by the Bush administration as part of the solution to global warming have ‘limited potential’ to reduce greenhouse gases. Industry's unwillingness to participate and unreliable data that casts doubt on claimed reductions are hindering efforts to control some of the most potent greenhouse gases from aluminum smelters, landfills, coal mines and large farms. At best, the 11 different programs would achieve a 19 percent reduction in methane, sulfur hexafluoride and other non-carbon dioxide greenhouse gases projected to come from those industries in 2010. The report does not cover efforts to address the most plentiful greenhouse gas carbon dioxide or the biggest sources of it, transportation and electric power plants.” San Francisco Chronicle (July 25, 2008) 1.]

[Request #S08-40-2738]

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WATER SUPPLY

Finding the Balance: A Vision for Water Supply and Environmental Reliability in California. By Cynthia Koehler and others, Environmental Defense Fund. (The Fund, New York, New York) July 2008. 16 p.

Full text at: http://www.edf.org/documents/8093_CA_Finding_Balance_2008.pdf

["California's salmon are teetering on the edge of extinction and the salmon fishing industry is facing economic devastation, but this report establishes a framework to help address this crisis. It concludes that providing a more reliable water supply for the San Francisco Bay Delta Estuary could help save fish, including salmon, while also helping to ensure adequate water for farms, cities, and the 25 million Californians who rely on the Bay-Delta's water.... The report outlines steps that state and federal leaders must take to end a vicious cycle of water shortages and environmental near-disasters, and instead create a stable and reliable water supply. That should help guarantee environmental reliability – a condition where all necessary ecological, political and economic systems are in place to ensure the Bay Delta and its fisheries are self-sustaining into the future."]

[Request #S08-40-2716]

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GENERAL GOVERNMENT

EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS

Influenza Pandemic: Federal Agencies Should Continue to Assist States to Address Gaps in Pandemic Planning. By the U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO-08-539. (The Office, Washington, DC) June 2008. 52 p.

Full text at: <http://www.gao.gov/new.items/d08539.pdf>

["The federal government has provided influenza pandemic guidance on a variety of topics including an influenza pandemic planning checklist for states and localities and draft guidance on allocating an influenza pandemic vaccine. However, officials of the states and localities reviewed by GAO told GAO that they would welcome additional guidance from the federal government in a number of areas to help them to better plan and exercise for an influenza pandemic, in areas such as community containment (community-level interventions designed to reduce the transmission of a pandemic virus). Three of these areas were also identified as having 'many major gaps' in states' plans nationally."]
[Request #S08-40-2723]

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Security and Privacy Recommendations for Government-Issued Identity Documents Using Radio Frequency Identification Tags or Other Technologies. By Christopher J. Marxen, California Research Bureau, California State Library. CRB-08-008. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) July 2008. 105 p.

Full text at: <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-008.pdf>

["This report was produced in response to a request from Senator S. Joseph Simitian to provide policy recommendations regarding the use of technology-enhanced, government-issued identification documents. After examining the technical and personal security issues and concerns of these next-generation documents and their accompanying electronic infrastructure, assembling an expert advisory panel, and holding a series of public meetings to obtain input, CRB developed the report's recommendations for the selection and use of these technologies by state and local government agencies."]
[Request #S08-40-2699]

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REDISTRICTING

A Comparative Overview of California Redistricting Reform Proposals in 2008.
By Sasha Horwitz, Center for Governmental Studies. (The Center, Los Angeles, California) July 2008. 13 p.

Full text at: http://cgs.org/images/publications/cal_redist_final_2008.pdf

["The Center has compiled a comparative overview of California's 2008 redistricting reform proposals in chartform. The overview outlines the major provisions of the following: 1) The current redistricting law, Article XXI of the California Constitution; 2) Voters FIRST Initiative, Proposition 11, sponsored by California Common Cause, AARP, Governor Schwarzenegger and the Los Angeles Chamber of Commerce; 3) Assembly Constitutional Amendment 1 (ACA 1) and AB 3069 sponsored by former Speaker of the California Assembly Fabian Núñez; and 4) The model redistricting plan developed by CGS and other civic organizations."]

[Request #S08-40-2715]

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HEALTH

HEALTH CARE

The Overuse, Underuse, and Misuse of Health Care. By Peter R. Orszag, Congressional Budget Office. (The Office, Washington, DC) July 17, 2008. 24 p.

Full text at: http://www.cbo.gov/ftpdocs/95xx/doc9567/07-17-HealthCare_Testimony.pdf

["One reason that the most appropriate care is not always provided is that, for many conditions, the evidence is limited about which treatments work best for which patients and whether the benefits of more expensive therapies warrant their additional costs. More information about the comparative effectiveness of medical treatments would help to address that problem, especially if the findings were linked to Medicare's payment rates or cost-sharing requirements. A growing body of research on behavioral economics suggests that, in addition to financial incentives, norms and default options can exert a strong influence on individuals' choices. Such findings could inform efforts to improve efficiency in the health sector."]

[Request #S08-40-2695]

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HEALTH CARE REFORM

Identifying and Evaluating Equity Provisions in State Health Care Reform. By Brian Smedley, The Opportunity Agenda, and others. (The Commonwealth Fund, New York, New York) April 2008. 66 p.

Full text at:

http://www.commonwealthfund.org/usr_doc/Smedley_identifyingequityprovisions_1124.pdf?section=4039

["Millions of people in the United States -- principally racial and ethnic minorities, immigrants, and those who lack proficiency in English -- face barriers to high-quality health care. Such problems are largely due to high numbers of uninsured individuals among these groups, though it persists even when they are insured. By expanding health insurance coverage and addressing issues of access to care, quality of care, patient empowerment, infrastructural reforms, and social and community-level determinants of health, states have the potential to achieve equity. This report seeks to identify state policies that promote equitable health care access and quality and to evaluate existing laws, regulations, or reform proposals in five states -- Massachusetts, Washington, Illinois, Pennsylvania, and California."]
[Request #S08-40-2721]

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PUBLIC HEALTH

Prevention for a Healthier America: Investments in Disease Prevention Yield Significant Savings, Stronger Communities. By Jeffrey Levi and others, Trust for America's Health. (The Trust, Oakland, California) July 2008.

[The Trust for America's Health concludes that an investment of \$10 per person per year in proven community-based programs to increase physical activity, improve nutrition, and prevent smoking and other tobacco use could save the country more than \$16 billion annually within 5 years. This is a return of \$5.60 for every \$1 invested. Out of the \$16 billion, Medicare could save more than \$5 billion, Medicaid could save more than \$1.9 billion, and private payers could save more than \$9 billion. The report focuses on disease prevention programs that do not require medical care and target communities or at-risk segments of communities. Examples of these programs include providing increased access to affordable nutritious foods, increasing sidewalks and parks in communities, and raising tobacco tax rates."]
[Request #S08-40-2706]

Report. 74 p.

http://preventioninstitute.org/documents/PreventionforaHealthierAmerica_7_08.pdf

Executive Summary. 3 p.

<http://healthyamericans.org/reports/prevention08/Prevention08Exec.pdf>

HOUSING

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The Hidden Costs of the Housing Crisis: The Impact of Housing on Young Children's Odds of Success. By Joydeep Roy, Economic Policy Institute. (The Partnership for America's Economic Success, Washington, DC) July 2008. 6 p.

Full text at:

http://www.partnershipforsuccess.org/docs/research_brief_200807_housing.pdf

["Without a safe, stable home to call their own, young children face tremendous obstacles to the critical cognitive, behavioral and social development that occurs during their earliest years. Unfortunately, an increasing number of children ages zero to five lack such safety and stability, thanks to sharp increases in housing costs for both owners and renters, and the foreclosure crisis and accompanying credit crunch. While skyrocketing foreclosure rates have taken center stage in the media, a quiet crisis that threatens the ability of young children to learn and thrive has been taking place for many years. The impact of poor housing on children's educational success means this crisis will have reverberations for society as a whole for decades to come."]

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HUMAN SERVICES

CHILDREN

Building Capacity in Child Welfare Systems: Domestic Violence Specialized Positions. By Ann Rosewater. AND: Reflections from the Field: Considerations for Domestic Violence Specialists. By Shellie Taggart and Lauren Litton. (National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Reno, Nevada) 2008

["It is increasingly apparent that many of the millions of children who are involved with the child welfare system at any one time have mothers who are victims of domestic violence. Over the past 15 years, there has been a range of efforts to build the child welfare system's capacity to address the mother's circumstances. One promising capacity building strategy involves making regularly available to child welfare staff, judicial personnel, and others working with these families, someone who is knowledgeable about the dynamics of domestic violence and who is familiar with resources in the community. These new actors, generally referred to as 'domestic violence specialized positions,' are essentially creating a new 'field,' one that stands between several different disciplines and systems."]

[Request #S08-40-2710]

Building Capacity. 27 p.

<http://thegreenbook.ncjfcj.org/documents/BuildingCaps.pdf>

Reflections from the Field. 24 p.

<http://thegreenbook.ncjfcj.org/documents/Reflections.pdf>

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FOSTER CARE

"Effects of Enhanced Foster Care on the Long-Term Physical and Mental Health of Foster Care Alumni." By Ronald C. Kessler and others. IN: Archives of General Psychiatry, vol. 65, no. 6 (June 2008) pp. 625-633

Full text at: <http://archpsyc.ama-assn.org/cgi/reprint/65/6/625>

["The study compared the mental health outcomes of adults who had received care as adolescents in two public-sector foster-care programs with the outcomes of adults who had received care as adolescents in a private foster-care program called the Casey program. All subjects had been placed in foster care primarily because of maltreatment. The Casey program had provided more highly trained personnel and more intense services than the public programs.... The Casey alumni seemed to have better mental health than public-program alumni.... However, before states invest in a Casey-model foster-care program, the investigators cautioned, more analysis is needed 'because we are not sure that all of the more costly elements of the Casey package of services contributed to the greater effectiveness of the Casey program.'"]

[Request #S08-40-2726]

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YOUTH

Homeless Youth: Bibliography and Resources. By Lisa K. Foster, California Research Bureau, California State Library. (The Bureau, Sacramento, California) July 2008. 62 p.

Full text at: <http://www.library.ca.gov/crb/08/08-010.pdf>

["The CRB and the California Council on Youth Relations, with support from The California Wellness Foundation, are conducting a major research and policy initiative to identify and bring to the attention of state policymakers the serious issues facing homeless youth in California. This report is a resource document and includes an annotated bibliography drawn from a wide range of academic and program-based research, agendas from CRB public policy seminars held over the last year, and contact information for the seminar presenters."]

TRANSPORTATION

DRIVERS

Distractive Effects of Cellphone Use. By Samuel G. Charlton, University of Waikato, Hamilton. (Land Transport New Zealand, Wellington, New Zealand) July 2008. 52 p.

Full text at: <http://www.landtransport.govt.nz/research/reports/349.pdf>

["The study investigated the differences between passenger and hands-free cellphone conversations. Of interest was whether visual access to the driver's situation was sufficient to produce the conversation suppression and references to the immediate driving task found with in-car passengers.... The results clearly indicated that driving while talking to an in-car passenger was appreciably different from conversing over a cellphone... A second experiment investigated whether a cellphone modified to emit warning tones could alleviate some of the adverse effects associated with cellphone conversations. Radio frequency 'tags' could be placed on hazard warning signs, or GPS-capable cellphones could be programmed with maps containing the locations of known road hazards.... The results showed that the alerting cellphone was associated with driving performance nearly as good as that of the no-conversation controls."]

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